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25X1

27 February 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Critique for OXCART Mission Number BX6851

1. Mission critique was conducted in the OSA Control Center at 1330 hours, 23 February 1968.

2. Mission Data:

- a. Mission Number: BX6851
- b. Date Flown: 16 February 1968
- c. Area of Operation: North Vietnam
- d. Mission Success: Unsuccessful due Weather
- e. Pilot's Name: [Redacted]
- f. Aircraft Number: 127
- g. Primary or Spare Flown: Primary
- h. Takeoff Time - Planned: 0240Z
Actual: 0240Z
- i. Landing Time - Planned: 0637Z
Actual: 0634Z
- j. Time Enroute - Planned: 3+57
Actual: 3+54
- k. Departure Base: Kadena Air Base
- l. Landing Base: Kadena Air Base
- m. Equipment:

(1) Primary: [Redacted]


(2) Spare: Same as Primary.

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3. Operations:

a. Mission Generation & Operational Support: Satisfactory

b. Plans: Route (Actual vs. Planned): Satisfactory

(1) Total INS Nav Time: 4+27 Hours

(2) INS Terminal Error: 4.8 Nautical Miles

(3) INS Spec Error: 10.2 Nautical Miles

c. Tactics (Planned vs. Actual): Due weather in target area, second leg not flown. Hqs diverted aircraft from end second A/R to Kadena via DMZ.

4. Weather:

a. Forecast vs. Actual: Worse than briefed.

b. Observed Cloud Condition:

(1) Pilot estimated 100 percent cloud cover on first run. Pilot unable to estimate cloud cover over DMZ.

(2) Photography: 95 percent cloud cover over North Vietnam.


c. Comments: Forecast CAT II. Clearing did not occur. Operations notified of continued overcast between 0245-0300Z. Second pass cancelled due to 95 percent cloud cover.

5. Materiel:

a. Aircraft General: Satisfactory.

b. Aircraft Systems: Satisfactory.

c. Camera Systems:

(1) Quality of Take: Satisfactory. Clouds and haze predominate all areas viewed.  evaluator states this

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is representative of entire mission. Exposure and contrast appear adequate.

(2) Resolution: Comparable to previous missions.

(3) Camera Operation: Satisfactory, no camera malfunctions apparent.

6. Intelligence:

a. Target Coverage: No coverage due to 95 percent cloud cover in the target area. Planned second pass was aborted.

25X1 b. Hostile Reaction: [REDACTED]

c. Significant Findings: None.

d. EWS Activations: None.

e. Take Movement:

(1) Photography: Satisfactory.

(2) [REDACTED]

(3) Comments: Take Movement from Kadena to Japan delayed 24 hours due to heavy snowfall in Japan. Take accompanied BX6853 to CONUS.

7. Communications:

a. Message Traffic: Satisfactory.

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c. UHF/HF Commo: Satisfactory.

8. Significant Actions Taken:

25X1 a. Canned diversionary withdrawal routes from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] areas have been forwarded to [REDACTED] for appropriate use on all future North Vietnam missions.

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b. Some HY-2 delays experienced. Communications operator training program has been initiated to correct problem.

9. Outstanding Actions Required:

a. Review take in areas outside North Vietnam for possible use by other Agencies (Intelligence Division, OSA).

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Colonel, USAF
Chief, OXCART Division, Operations, OSA

OXC/O/OSA/Nix:pm

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